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Diana T Fritz 03/20/2007 03:50:52 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

November 04, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 4869 - PRIORITY)
TAGS: EAID, PGOV, PREL
Captions: None
Subject: DONOR STRATEGY - AFGHANISTAN
Ref: None

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 04869

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: ECON
INFO: POL P/M AMB DCM
Laser1:
INFO: FCS

DISSEMINATION: ECON
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: CDA:RALBRIGHT
DRAFTED: ECON:OJOHN
CLEARED: NONE

VZCZCADI368
PP RUEHC RUEHDE RUEHBUL
DE RUEHAD #4869 3081247
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 041247Z NOV 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2306
INFO RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 3516
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 0143

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 004869

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E.O. 12958: DECL 10/30/13
TAGS: EAID PGOV PREL AF TC
SUBJECT: DONOR STRATEGY - AFGHANISTAN

REF: A) STATE 305542, B) ABU DHABI 3940

(U) Classified by CDA Richard Albright, for reasons 1.5 B
and d.

¶1. (C) Post understands that, in meetings last week with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al-Nahyan (HbZ), Treasury Secretary Snow and Defense Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz urged

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HbZ to expedite disbursal of pledged UAE assistance to Afghanistan and to pledge and deliver additional assistance on an urgent basis. In response, HbZ promised to send an Abu Dhabi Fund for Development team to review project needs with Afghan government ministries after Ramadan.

¶2. (C) Post has followed up with contacts at the Ministry of Finance and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development to determine the status of the \$36 million pledge that the UAE made in 2002 (\$30 million of which was for project assistance and administered by the Fund and \$6 million of which was humanitarian assistance). According to Abu Dhabi Fund Senior Assistant Director General Ahmed Baeer, the Fund is currently evaluating two development projects requested by the Afghan government. He suggested that the Afghans have not provided the UAEG with enough prioritized projects for the Fund to evaluate. He further stated that he would like to see at least 5 or 6 proposals, so the UAEG would have some choice. Baeer did not seem aware that the UAEG had agreed to provide \$10 million, of the \$30 million, in direct cash assistance to the GoA. (ref B) We are trying to confirm whether this \$10 million has been transferred.

¶3. (SBU) Comment: The Abu Dhabi Fund is the development arm of the Abu Dhabi Government. As such it either lends out its own money or manages Abu Dhabi grants if these involve development projects. It does not provide humanitarian assistance or other types of grants, so it only handles a portion of UAE assistance worldwide. Of the approximately 108 billion Dirhams (\$29 billion) in assistance that the UAE has provided since 1972, only about 19 billion Dirhams (\$5 billion) have gone through the Fund. We note, for example, that the UAEG also provided a \$50 million assistance-in-kind package to the Afghan national army in November 2002 and continued substantial humanitarian support to Afghanistan. End Comment

ALBRIGHT